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## Governor's Office of Community Service

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## 2010 NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY AMERICORPS GRANTS

### Does AmeriCorps Fit My Organization?

In 2009 year, the Montana Commission on Community Service awarded more than \$2.7 million of federal AmeriCorps funding for Montana. We expect to meet or exceed that amount (pending federal legislation) for new and existing AmeriCorps programs to begin in September 2010 for a 12-month grant period.

#### BRING AMERICORPS TO YOUR COMMUNITY

We are beginning the process of selecting local grants for submission to the Corporation for National Service for 2010-2011 AmeriCorps funding. We invite innovative, collaborative and high-quality community service program proposals for consideration.

We have condensed the most vital information regarding the structure and goals of successful AmeriCorps programs. This summary may help you determine if AmeriCorps members would be a valuable resource for helping you achieve your agency's goals. This is meant only as an informal self-assessment tool and should not preclude any organization from reviewing the full application or submitting a formal application.

#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, school districts, tribes and state and local governments are eligible to apply for AmeriCorps funds through the Governor's Office of Community Service (OCS).

#### HOW DO I GET AN APPLICATION?

Applications are available on line at [www.serve.mt.gov](http://www.serve.mt.gov). Please download the complete AmeriCorps application file.

#### IS MY ORGANIZATION READY FOR AMERICORPS?

AmeriCorps is a national service program established by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. As a network of local,

state, and national service programs it connects more than 75,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet our country's critical needs in education, environment, public safety, disaster preparedness and other human needs. There were over 900 AmeriCorps members in Montana last year providing service through 6 programs.

Programs are funded by federal grants and administered by eligible nonprofit organizations, schools, tribes or governments. Grantees recruit, train and manage their own AmeriCorps members. Members provide community service either full-time or part-time. In return for successfully completing a one year term of service, whether full-time or part-time, members receive an education award. A full-time service term is defined as 1700 hours, to be completed in a 12 month period; a part-time service term is defined as 900 hours, to be completed in 9 months to one year. Education awards are given in the amounts of \$5,350 for full-time service and \$2,675 for part-time service to be used for post-secondary education or re-payment of outstanding student loans.

Full-time AmeriCorps members receive a living allowances, health care benefits and child care benefits (if eligible). Part-time members receive a living allowances.

Please carefully review the **2010 AmeriCorps NOFO** for complete information and instructions.

#### WE RECOMMEND YOU BEGIN YOUR APPLICATION PROCESS BY ANSWERING THESE PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS:

- What critical unmet needs does your AmeriCorps program address? How?

- What is your plan to recruit, train, supervise and retain AmeriCorps Members?
- Who are the potential community partners in collaboration with your program?
- How will you meet the matching requirements for a federal grant? (first year single match requirement is 24% cash or in-kind). Average amount for cash portion is generally \$30,000 per grant.
- How will you measure your program's outcomes and results?

Once you have a clear vision of these answers, you should be ready to address the more specific aspects of the AmeriCorps application.

#### **HOW MANY MEMBERS CAN MY PROJECT SUPPORT?**

Proposals should be designed to support at least 10 members managed by a full time Program Director.

#### **HOW WILL YOUR MEMBERS BE PLACED?**

Programs should partner with other nonprofit organizations or agencies in their communities to support member placements. Such partners might include schools, volunteer centers, faith-based organizations, local or state governments, service organizations or colleges universities. As you design your program, make sure to think about what organizations in your community may want to host your AmeriCorps members. Some programs have members at just one site.

#### **IS TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE?**

Yes. We can provide proposal and grant writing consultation, federal grant and financial management training as well as other technical assistance before organizations apply for funding.

#### **Montana Priority Areas:**

NOTE: The Montana Commission on Community Service will have priority areas in addition to those priority areas outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Please check [serve.mt.gov](http://serve.mt.gov) for updates